norms, plant capacities, capital additions, foreign exchange fluctuations etc., that were not updated since 1.7.1997 and this may lead to recoveries in some cases and payments in some other cases. Prior to finalization of policy parameters for 7th and 8th pricing periods, the Government had carried out an interim reassessment of capacity and interim revision of consumption norms w.e.f. 1.4.2002 resulting in estimated recoveries of Rs.450 crores per annum and Rs. 769 crores per annum, respectively from the concerned urea units.

(c) Government is also in the process of formulating a new pricing policy for urea unite keeping in view the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission for replacing the existing Retention price Scheme.The proposed pricing policy would be in the shape of Group Concession Schemes, which will aim at greater uniformity and transparency in the operational parameters and will induce urea units to take measures *sou moto* to be efficient and cost effective.

Bifurcation of Fertilizer Units for Subsidy

† 1803. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a scheme to provide subsidy to the decontrolled chemical fertilizer production units, by bifurcating them;

(b) if so, the names of the production units that would be included in the said bifurcation;

(c) the present production capacity of the units under the proposed bifurcation at present; and

(d) the proposed rate of subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The report of Tariff Commission (TC) on costing of complex fertilizers under consideration of the Government. The TC has recommended formation of two groups of complex manufacturers. Group I consist the units manufacturing ammonia through gas or using imported ammonia while the Group II units manufacturing ammonia through naphtha or fuel oil.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b)TheTC has categorised Deepak Fertilizers and Petrochemicals Corporation Limited, EID Parry (India) Limited, Paradeep Phosphate Limited, Indian Farmers Fertilizers Cooperative Limited, Coromandel Fertilizers Limited and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited under group I.The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, Zuari Industries Limited, Madras Fertilizers Limited and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers Company Limited have been placed in group II.

(c) The production capacity of various grades of complex fertilizers as assessed, by the TC is approx. 25.60 lakh MT for group I units and about 21 lakh MT for group II units.

(d) The TC has recommended the per unit price of 'N', 'P', 'K' and 'other costs' for working out concession of various grades of complexes. It has also suggested to adjust these per unit costs using escalation formula. However, the proposed rates of concession/subsidy payable to various grades of complexes will be subejct to the finalisation of policy by the Government.

Transportation of Fertilizers in Himachal Pradesh

1804. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from Himachal Pradesh Government to consider the provision for transportation of fertilizers to the State on the pattern of North Eastern States and J&K; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; the action Government propose to take in the matter and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Government of India had decided to extend additional' transportation subsidy for decontrolled P&K fertilizers to the Himachal Pradesh on similar lines as in the case of North Eastern States including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir, Subsequently, Government has approved, in principle, the rates for transportation of these fertilizers to the Himachal Pradesh and the notification to this effect is being issued in consultation with the State Government. The freight cost for transportation of urea to the Himachal Pradesh is reimbursed under equated freight scheme.